Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AID-05 MCE-00 /079 W
----------129500 250931Z /10
O R 250840Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7789
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1379

DEPARTMENT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, US
SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN CONCERN OVER US ARMS POLICY TO SOMALIA;
ETHIO-CUBAN COMMUNIQUE

1. MOFA AMERICALCAFFAIRS DIRECTOR BERHANE DERESSA CALLED ME IN MARCH 25 TO REGISTER EPMG DISAPPOINTMENT OVER GROWING TENDENCY IN US POLICY TO PROVIDE ARMAMENTS TO SOMALIA. TO GO AHEAD WITH SUCH PLANS BEFORE TACKLING BASIC UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS IN REGION SERVED ONLY TO PERPETUATE SOMALI EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS, WAS CONTARY TO SPIRIT OF BILATERAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS, CONSTITUTED RENEWED THREAT TO PEACE IN REGION, AND WOULD HAVE "GRAVE CONSEQUENCES." BERHANE SAID EPMG IS NOT OPPOSED TO US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA AND INDEED WELCOMED ANY INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO FEED AND PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS OF WAR ON BOTH SIDES OF FRONITER WHO WERE SUFFERING FROM RESULTS OF SOMALI AGGRESSION. BUT US IS FULLY AWARE OF DISASTER AND DESTRUCTION WHICH SOMALIA HAS INTENTIONALLY CAUSED, AND FOR US TO CONTINUE NEVERTHELESS TO REPLENISH SOMALI ARSENAL WOULD RENDER MEANINGLESS US PROFSSED DESIRE TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE.
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2. I CAREFULLY SPELLED OUT US POSITION THAT PRESIDENT HAD INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT WITH CONGRESS REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING DEFENSIVE ARMS TO SOMALIA ONLY AFTER SOMALIA EXPRESSES READINESS TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMITMENT NOT TO DISHONOR INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF ITS NEIGHBORS. SUCH A CHANGE IN PAST SOMALI POLICY IS ESSENTIAL CONDITION BEFORE

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MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH US COULD BE ESTABLISHED, I FELT.
I POINTED OUT ALSO THAT SOVIET UNION HAD HEAVILY OVERARMED
SOMALIA FIRST TIME AROUND, AND THAT THERE ALREADY APPEARED
TO BE SIGNS OF RENEWED CONTACTS BETWEEN USSR AND SOMALIA
ABOUT ARMS, TOO. ALL THESE THINGS HAD TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT
BY POLICY MAKERS IN WASHINGTON. I NOTED THAT USG PAYS CAREFUL
ATTENTION TO ETHIOPIAN VIEWS, AS EVIDENCED BY EVOLUTION IN
US POSITION ON OGADEN WAR AS WAR PROGRESSED, AND ASSURED
BERHANE THAT I WOULD PROVIDE WASHINGTON CLEAR ACCOUNT OF
ETHIOPIAN POSITION IN THIS INSTANCE AS WELL.

3. BERHANE CLOSED BY EMPHASIZING AGAIN THAT FOR US TO
ESTABLISH MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA UNDER PRESENT
CIRCUMSTANCES ONLY SERVED TO MAKE SOMALIS MORE ADAMANT IN
MAINTAINING UNTENABLE POSITIONS AND MORE DIFFICULT TO NEGO-
TIATE WITH IN BRINGING ABOUT LASTING PEACE.

4. AT OUTSET OF CONVERSATION, I EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER FACT THAT,
IN ETHIO-CUBAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED MARCH 24 FOLLOWING FONMIN
MALMIERCA VISIT TO ADDIS ABABA, TWO SIES "CONDEMNED CRIMINAL
BLOCKADE BY US IMPERIALISM AGAINST CUBA." AS BERHANE KNEW,
ID SAID, THERE WAS NO SUCH BLOCKADE, AND REFERENCE TO TERM WAS
OFFENSIVE. THIS AND OTHER REFERENCES TO US IN COMMUNIQUE (GUANTA-
NAMO AND NEUTRON BOMB) HARDLY SERVED TO FURTHER CONSTRUCTIVE
DIALOGUE WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES SOUGHT. BERHANE USED THIS LAST
COMMENT AS ENTRY FOR HIS OWN PROTEST ON ALLEGED ARMS SUPPLY
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TO SOMALIA BY SAYING THAT THERE WERE MANY DEVELOPMENTS THAT
DID NOT HELP DIALOGUE AND THEN GOING ON FROM THERE.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY SALES, COMMUNIQUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS01379
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780131-1110
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780325/aaaaavbb.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f5aeadbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3204387
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN CONCERN OVER US ARMS POLICY TO SOMALIA; ETHIO-CUBAN COMMUNIQUE
TAGS: PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, US, CU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f5aeadbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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